



Connections That WORK



Connections that WORK is a pilot project of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth in partnership with Dartmouth Work Activity Society.

The aim of Connections that WORK (CTW) is to offer assistance to people who experience challenges in their lives connecting to the workforce whether it be education upgrading, volunteer opportunities or full time/part time employment. These challenges run the gamut from health

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issues (including mental health), struggles with an addiction, poor housing conditions, or accessing available services.

After identifying the challenge each person is facing, CTW staff work with the person to determine the best approach for him or her. This could be preparing for GED, working on literacy issues, learning how to use a

computer, meeting with a counsellor to help with an addiction, finding better housing, or simply finding out where to get more resources that would improve their ability to manage their lives and in turn be successful in other areas.

When the CTW participant is ready to move into a structured program they are referred to the program that is best suited to ensuring continued success. This is made possible through collaborating with service providers who specialize in certain areas. These relationships are key to the continued success of the CTW participant and CTW itself. There are phenomenal programs available such as Dartmouth Work Activity Society (DWAS) who provide support in academics and skill development, introduction to employers, employment and ongoing support. DWAS has been working in the community for over 26 years helping those who need it the most. They have developed plans and programs that are proven to be effective and have excellent success rates.

The relationship between the CTW participant and staff is on going and will continue until the participant says 'I'm going to make it and I can take it from here.' There is always the ability for the person to say they would like to try something different or take a break to regroup. Everything at CTW is geared to ensure the success of that person. This is very empowering for him or her and gives them courage to

venture into unfamiliar territory. Simply knowing that someone will encourage, support and advise them without fear of doing something 'wrong', positions that person to carry on to be successful. With each success, a new goal is set and the individual gains more confidence each time they achieve a goal.

The Public Good Society (TPGS) is a relatively new non-profit organization in downtown Dartmouth. In the spring and summer of 2006, The Public Good Society of Dartmouth decided that the best way to develop a forward thinking strategy would be to know more about the consumers of Feeding Others of

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Dartmouth at Margaret's House. In order to gain this knowledge, TPGS undertook a survey to get a better sense of who those consumers were, where they come from and what types of challenges they faced on a daily basis. The results of the survey urged TPGS to attempt to address some of the gaps that were identified such as lack of knowledge and access to services. With much community support in favour of a new way of doing things to help bridge the gaps in accessing available services, Connections that WORK was born and granted funding from Canada-Nova Scotia Skills and Learning

Framework through the Department of Community Services. The partnership for this project was ideal given the placement of DWAS in the community and the 'navigator' approach of CTW. A perfect fit!

There are no pre-requisites to participating in CTW. Age, education or income source do not matter. We will work with each person to create the best plan to spell success for each participant.

Please help us promote this project or if you are in the neighborhood, drop by for a chat. We are easy to find at 47 Wentworth Street, next door to "FOOD" Feeding Others of

Dartmouth at Margaret's House. You can also contact us here:

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